

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

167. (Currently amended) A method of controlling at least one camera to so that said at least one camera captures the image of each of plurality of different objects within an common area capable of being imaged by controlling the camera field of view of said at least one camera responsive to a command from a corresponding one of a plurality of users, each associated with an object, comprising the steps of:

associating with each of the plurality of users at least one field of view for a corresponding one of the plurality of objects within the common area imaged by the camera;
remembering the at least one field of view of each of the plurality of objects imaged by the at least one camera;

receiving a command from one of the plurality of users command to capture the image of a corresponding one of the plurality of objects;

identifying which of the plurality of users issued the command;

automatically controlling the field of view of the at least one camera to the at least one field of view remembered for the object corresponding to the user that issued the command.

168. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 wherein the remembering step further comprising the step of receiving a command from at least one user associated with a corresponding object to remember a field of view for the object associated with the at least one user.

169. (previously presented) The method of Claim 168 wherein step of automatically controlling the field of view further comprises the step of moving the at least one camera to remembered field of view position associated with the at least one user from whom the command was received.

170. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 wherein further including the step of remembering the position of the field of view of the at least one camera with respect to a known reference.

171. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 further including the step of remembering the position of the field of view of the at least one camera in a first plane.

172. (previously presented) The method of Claim 171 wherein further including the step of remembering the position of the field of view of the at least one camera in each of first and second planes.

173. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 further comprising the steps of:

remembering specific variables of the at least on camera for each field of view remembered; and
automatically recalling the remembered variables when the field of view is recalled.

174. (previously presented) The method of Claim 173 including the step of remembering an iris setting of the field of view of the at least one camera.

175. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 including the step of remembering a zoom perspective of the field of view of the at least one camera.

176. (previously presented) The method of Claim 175 further including the step of automatically maintaining the remembered zoom perspective remembered when the field of view of the least one camera is moved.

177. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 further including the step of issuing a command to override at least one subsequent command affecting the field of view of the at least one camera;

178. (previously presented) The method of Claim 167 further including the steps of:
controlling at least one field of view variable of the at least one camera;
remembering the field of view variables of the at least one camera; and
automatically establishing for the at least camera the remembered field of view variables for the remembered field of view position upon recall of the field of view position.

179. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~409~~ 167 further including the step of remembering a specific field of view position for recall upon a command from a user.

180 (previously presented) The method of Claim 179 further comprising the step of receiving a command to change the field of view to the remembered field of view.

181. (currently amended) A method of controlling the field of view of each of at least first and second cameras, ~~each~~ both cameras movable so each can separately ~~to capture~~ the image of ~~one of~~ at least first and second objects within a common area within the field of view of each camera, each object associated with a respective one of at least first and second users, each user capable of sending commands via an associated one of at least first and second control device to an automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the first and second cameras, comprising the steps of:

associating at least one field of view for each of the at least first and second cameras with one of the at least first and second objects;

remembering by the automatic control system the field of view of each of the at least first and second cameras for each of the at least first and second objects;

receiving at the automatic control system a command from one of the at least first and second control devices;

identifying which of the at least first and second users issued the command;

changing the field of view position of one of the at least first and second cameras to a remembered field of view for the object associated with the one of the first and second-control devices that issued the command; and

remembering by the automatic control system the one of the first and second control device that issued the command.

182. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further comprising the step of receiving commands from each of the at least first and second control devices to remember different field of view positions of each of the at least first and second cameras by the automatic control system.

183. (added) The method of Claim 182 wherein further comprising the step of remembering a zoom perspective of each camera field of view.

184. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further comprising the step of selecting a video output signal of one of the at least first and second cameras.

185. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further comprising the step of remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from a separate one of the at least first and second control devices.

186. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further comprising the step of receiving a command from one of the at least first and second control devices to change the field of view to the remembered field of view position.

187. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further including the steps of selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one of the at least two control devices.

188. (previously presented) The method of Claim 185 further including the step of automatically selecting the audio signal from the one control device.

189. (previously presented) The method of Claim 185 further including the step of automatically disabling audio signals associated with the at least one control device not selected.

190. (previously presented) The method of Claim 185 further comprising the step of automatically selecting audio signals associated with the at least two control devices when one control device is identified.

191. (previously presented) The method of Claim 185 further comprising the steps of:

establishing groups of control devices; and
selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group.

192. (previously presented) The method of Claim 191 further comprising the step of automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled.

193. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further including the steps of:
automatically tracking the first object associated with the first control device
responsive to a command from that control device that issued the command; and
controlling the field of view to automatically track the object.

194. (previously presented) The method of Claim 193 further comprising the step of
automatically tracking of the first object only for as long as automatic tracking command is
being issued by the first control device.

195. (previously presented) The method of Claim 195 further comprising the steps
of:
receiving a command from the second control device to provide automatic tracking of
the second object;
ceasing to automatically track the first object.

196. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further including the step of
selectively providing a video output signal from one of the at first and second cameras.

197. (previously presented) The method of Claim 196 wherein further including the
step of automatically selecting the video output signal associated with the first camera.

198. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further comprising the step of
remembering a specific field of view for one of the at least first and second cameras that can
be recalled by a command from any of the at least first and second control devices.

199. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 wherein further comprising
the step of receiving a command by any of the at least first and second control devices to
change the field of view of any of the at least first and second cameras to the specific field of
view position previously remembered.

200. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further including the step of
receiving a command to override subsequently received commands affecting control of the
field of view of any of the at least first and second cameras.

201. (previously presented) The method of Claim 200 further including the step of receiving a command to restore a capability to respond to commands from either of the at least first and second control devices.

202. (previously presented) The method of Claim 181 further including the steps of: remembering field of view variables for one of the at least first and second objects being tracked; and recalling the remembered variables when the one of the at least first and second objects is being automatically tracked.

203. (previously presented) The method of Claim 202 further including the step of remembering variables associated with automatic tracking of one of the at least two control devices.

204. (previously presented) The method of Claim 203 further including the step of remembering the location in the field of view of the one object to be maintained during automatic tracking.

205. (currently amended) A system comprising:
at least first and second cameras, each capturing at least ~~one of~~ first and second objects within a common area,
at least first and second control devices, each controlled by first and second users, respectively, each user associated with a respective one of the at least first and second objects;
automatic control means for adjusting ~~field of view variables~~ of the field of view associated with the first and second objects within the field of view of each of the first and second said cameras, including
first circuit means for identifying a first one of the at least first and second control device from which the automatic control means has received a command;
first memory means for identifying said command received from said first one of the at least first and second ~~and second control~~ devices, said command including identity information indicative of the control device which sent said command, said memory means remembering said identity information of the control device after said command has been received therefrom to enable said field of view to be associated with the one of the remembered field of views; and

second circuit means for identifying a second of the at least first and second control device from which the automatic control means has received a command; and

second memory means for identifying said command received from the second one of the at least first and second and second control devices, said command including identity information indicative of the control device which sent said command, said second memory means remembering said identity information of the control device after said command has been received therefrom to enable said field of view to be associated with the one of the remembered field of views.

206. (currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 205 wherein said second circuit means includes memory means for remembering specific variables associated with each field of view.